

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A portable electronic device comprising:
 a first communication port that is directly accessible to an external
communication connector;
 an internal resource configured to communicate with a second
communication port that is internal to said portable electronic device, wherein
10 said second communication port is not directly accessible by said external
communication connector;
 a memory; and
 a processor coupled to communicate with said first communication port
and said second communication port and coupled to said memory, said
15 processor operable to make said internal resource accessible to said external
communication connector by executing instructions stored in said memory that
implement a communication bridge providing communication between said first
communication port and said second communication port.
- 20 2. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 1 wherein said
first communication port and said second communication port are serial
communication ports.
3. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 2 wherein said
25 serial communication ports are implemented using UART circuitry.

4. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 1 wherein said internal resource is a wireless modem.

5. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 1 wherein said
5 internal resource is a wireless radio.

6. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 1 wherein said portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant and wherein said external communication connector is for coupling said personal digital assistant
10 to a host computer system.

7. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 1 wherein said communication bridge relays information from a receive line (Rx) of one communication port to the transmit line (Tx) of the other communication port and
15 vice-versa.

8. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 1 wherein said communication bridge performs protocol translation between a PPP communication protocol and an non-PPP communication protocol.

20

9. A portable electronic device as described in Claim 4 wherein said wireless modem circuit performs protocol translation between a PPP communication protocol and an non-PPP communication protocol.

25

10. A personal digital assistant comprising:

a first communication port accessible from an external communication connector, said external communication connector for coupling with a host computer system;

an internal wireless communication device configured to communicate
5 with a second communication port that is internal to said personal digital assistant and wherein said second communication port is not directly accessible by said external communication connector;

a memory; and

a processor coupled to communicate with said first communication port
10 and said second communication port and coupled to said memory, said processor operable to make said internal wireless communication device accessible to said host computer system by executing instructions stored in said memory that implement a communication bridge providing communication between said first communication port and said second communication port.

15

11. A personal digital assistant as described in Claim 10 wherein said first communication port and said second communication port are serial communication ports.

20

12. A personal digital assistant as described in Claim 11 wherein said serial communication ports are implemented using UART circuitry.

25

13. A personal digital assistant as described in Claim 11 wherein said communication bridge relays information from a receive line (Rx) of one communication port to the transmit line (Tx) of the other communication port and vice-versa.

14. A personal digital assistant as described in Claim 10 wherein said communication bridge performs protocol translation between a PPP communication protocol and an non-PPP communication protocol.

5 15. A personal digital assistant as described in Claim 10 wherein said internal wireless communication device performs protocol translation between a PPP communication protocol and an non-PPP communication protocol.

10 16. A computer system comprising:
a host computer system;
a portable computer system communicatively coupled to said host computer system and comprising:
a first communication port directly accessible from an external communication device, said external communication device for
15 communicating with said host computer system;
an internal wireless communication device configured to communicate with a second communication port that is internal to said portable computer system and that is not directly accessible by said external communication device;
20 a memory; and
a processor coupled to communicate with said first communication port and said second communication port and coupled to said memory, said processor operable to make said internal wireless communication device accessible to said host computer system by executing instructions
25 stored in said memory that implement a communication bridge between said first communication port and said second communication port.

17. A computer system as described in Claim 16 wherein said first communication port and said second communication port are serial communication ports.

5 18. A computer system as described in Claim 17 wherein said communication bridge relays information from a receive line (Rx) of one communication port to the transmit line (Tx) of the other communication port and vice-versa.

10 19. A computer system as described in Claim 16 wherein said communication bridge performs protocol translation between a PPP communication protocol and an non-PPP communication protocol.

15 20. A computer system as described in Claim 16 wherein said internal wireless communication device performs protocol translation between a PPP communication protocol and an non-PPP communication protocol.

20 21. A computer system as described in Claim 16 wherein said external communication device is a wireless Bluetooth compliant external communication device for communicating with said host computer system.

25 22. A computer system as described in Claim 16 wherein said external communication device is a wireless infrared external communication device for communicating with said host computer system.

23. A method of allowing a host computer to use a portable computer system as a peripheral comprising the steps of:

a) a host computer system issuing first commands and data over a communication link to said portable computer system using a first communication port of said portable computer system;

5 b) a bridge process implemented in said portable computer system copying said first commands and data to a second communication port internal to said portable computer system, said second communication port not directly accessible to said host computer system;

c) an internal wireless modem receiving said first commands and data from said second communication port;

10 d) said internal wireless modem sending second commands and data to said second communication port; and

e) said bridge process copying said second commands and data from said second communication port to said first communication port.

15 24. A method as described in Claim 23 and further comprising the step of said host computer system receiving said second commands and data from said first communication port.